

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

THE HESSE TRAGEDY (for once the word is appropriate in a newspaper) reminds the world with dramatic suddenness that man is not yet master of the air. He may be master of his fate, and master of land and sea, but of the air, no. The curse of Icarus is still with us. The cataclysm which has overtaken the house of Hesse is almost complete. The Prince of Hesse (in direct descent from Queen Victoria), his wife (a niece of the Duchess of Kent's father), the Dowager Duchess, and both their young sons have all died a sudden and a mercifully sudden death. Thus the new Prince of Hesse, a second cousin to our King, succeeds to the headship of an ancient and historic house on the eve of his alliance with a distinguished Scottish family. Sir Auckland Geddes and his daughter wisely decided that the wedding should take place at once, privately of course in the circumstances, and he asks us to respect their grief. There is nothing more to be said.

WAZIRISTAN, it would seem from the latest *communiqués*, is by no means yet completely "pacified." It is still considered necessary to keep there a force of 32,000 men, and though serious fighting on any large scale has ceased, the redoubtable and elusive Fakir of Ipi continues to have an unsettling effect on some sections of the tribesmen and is able to muster here and there his gangs of desperadoes to carry out "sporadic raids." The Fakir's old stronghold, the Shaktu Valley, has been conquered and this region is now in process of being opened up to "economic and civilising influences" through the building of 106 miles of motor roads into it "from all points of the compass." In Southern Waziristan the situation is regarded as "satisfactory" and Mahsuds and Tori Khel Wazirs are said to be anxious to observe the peace terms they accepted in August last. The number of rifles surrendered does not appear to be very large; the total is stated to be 1,400. While the *communiqués* have an air of optimism about them, it is abundantly clear that much remains to be done if India is to be permanently freed from the menace of dangerous and widespread unrest in the Waziristan section and other parts of the unadministered territories over its North-Western borders. A reconsideration of Simla's rather out of date frontier policy would, we would urge again, seem to be imperatively needed.

A MORAL FOR PALESTINE is to be extracted from the story of India under provincial autonomy. To quote the *Calcutta Statesman*, which cannot be said to be a carping critic looking out for faults in the New Order: "Every lover of India," it says, "must feel disturbed at the fierce communal political controversy which has broken out since the advent of provincial autonomy. In Bombay and the Central Provinces there has lately been serious communal rioting. A

critical aspect of the situation is that the communal struggle increasingly tends to be fought under two opposing banners, that of the Congress and the Moslem League." In other words, here is the inevitable struggle for mastery between the representatives of two rival creeds when the prize of power has been set up for those who would grasp it. The same thing happened in Palestine when a Geneva mandate made it clear that sooner or later Palestine would receive its "boon" of autonomous rule. Jew and Arab at once made up their minds to fight for the power that was to be surrendered, and so the struggle has gone on and is still continuing despite the Palestine Commission's Solomon judgment of Partition. In India no doubt it is impossible to go back on what has been done. But, in Palestine, is it still too late to consider the advisability of abandoning both Partition and an unworkable mandate?

IN THE CHURCH ASSEMBLY this week matters of immediate concern to experts in Church history and organisation were debated. All of these are of ultimate, if indirect, interest to those of us who by birth or conviction are members of the Established Church. The Faculty Jurisdiction Measure, for example, which defines the jurisdiction of an archdeacon in such matters was opposed by Mr. Douglas, ploughing as usual, his lonely furrow, but on the wise advice of the Dean of Chichester and the Archbishop of York, the measure was generally approved. A measure of more general interest was that dealing with vicarages of unwieldy size and unsuited to modern conditions. This gives power to an incumbent or the Bishop to build or improve a more suitable house. The difficulty is what to do with the old one. An example within our knowledge is a case in point. The Rectory has fifteen bedrooms and the rest of the house in scale. The new Rector is a middle-aged bachelor, satisfied with a modern cottage in the village. Similar problems exist in most dioceses. They are difficult but, we are confident, not insoluble.

A HOLIDAY IN SWITZERLAND in the months that lie ahead of us is a prospect that must appeal to many who are not particularly enamoured of an English winter climate. And the Swiss Federal Railways, realising this, are already busy issuing their tantalisingly tempting invitations to visit their country. They set out their alluring figures of sunshine for various resorts, situated at altitudes of three to six thousand feet. They give details of Ski School fees and let it be known that, while Christmas and New Year hotel bookings are "encouragingly heavy," there is "still choice of accommodation yet" for those who do not tarry too long in making their decisions. "Did you know," they innocently ask possible readers of their bulletins, "that often the quietest

time of the whole winter is the fortnight from about January 6 to January 20?" Of course, they add for the benefit of ski-ing fans, "the best ski-ing (depth and quality of snow, much longer daylight and sunshine hours, more 'elbow-room,' better accommodation still for the same price) is to be had *after the New Year*, lasting right into March, or even April at suitable centres." March is the month for the World Ski Championships, the biggest event being fixed for March 7.

WHEN THE CHIEF SCOUT, Lord Baden Powell, visits his son and daughter in Rhodesia this winter he will, it is expected, inspect the area where he himself learned scouting. It is now known as Gordon Park, in the Matopos Mountains, and was recently given to the Boy Scouts. It has been steadily developed during the last year. A well has been sunk and equipped, tree planting is proceeding, a log cabin for tools and kit has been built, and camping sites marked out which are in constant use.

IN A COUNTRY of vast distances like Canada it is only natural that every means whereby space is annihilated, whether by aeroplane or wireless, should be heavily exploited. The needs of education make this question of contact all the more urgent, and in consequence there are few countries where the school system is more intimately linked with wireless. A report issued a few days ago pointed out that a large proportion of the schools in the cities have wireless, while in country districts 341 establishments have radio equipment, the bulk of them owned by the teachers themselves. Nearly half of these are in Alberta, while there are 66 in Saskatchewan and 73 in Ontario. For several years now the Department of Education in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have broadcast programmes outside school hours. Now, however, they are following the lead of other parts of Canada as well as of Great Britain—from where Canada's wireless chief, Major Gladstone Murray, has derived so many of his innovations—and are introducing radio lessons in the school curriculum.

AT THE GROTRIAN HALL last week Miss Dorothy Helmrigh sang songs by Schubert at a song and sonata recital and a group by Miss Talbot Hodge, an accomplished composer, whose Sonata in One Movement was performed for the first time by Miss Peggy Radmall (violin) and Miss Peggy Mayle (pianoforte). Both in this melodious work, and in the lovely Second Sonata of Milhaud, so simple and yet so sophisticated, Miss Radmall and Miss Mayle played with spirit and admirable ensemble.

THAT G.B.S. HAS AUDACITY and self-confidence in a high degree no one, not even George Bernard himself, will deny. One can hardly imagine anyone else being so daring as to undertake what to many people would seem the sacrilegious task of "improving" on Shakespeare. Yet if the ancients could hold that Homer sometimes nodded, even the most fervent of Shakespeare admirers can be excused for sorrowfully admitting that the immortal bard of Avon was occasionally guilty of producing work that was not wholly

worthy of his outstanding genius. "Cymbeline" is certainly not amongst the best of his plays, and for stage production it has, as Mr. Shaw long ago pointed out in two famous letters to Ellen Terry, its obvious weaknesses. So G.B.S. has at last had his own way with it, and the result, to judge by the performance at the Embassy Theatre this week, has been to give it an intellectual liveliness in *dénouement* that the original unquestionably lacked. True, there are bound to be critics who will hold that the "crudities" which G.B.S. has so ruthlessly removed were an essential element of Shakespeare's dramatic artifice; and there will be others, less censorious, who will lament the disappearance of many lines of fine poetry and will not be consoled for their jettisoning by the sparkling gems of Shavian wit. On the whole, however, one must admit that the modernising Shavian touch has done something at least to give the play the necessary refurbishing required for the purposes of twentieth century production. While saying this one may be pardoned perhaps for expressing the hope that Mr. Shaw's youthful enthusiasm at eighty-one will not carry him on to making still more daring experiments with Shakespearian drama.

AT THE LAST MOMENT the film industry has awakened to the dangers inherent in the new Bill, which is now being read for the second time, and so thoroughly has it opened its eyes that it has actually managed to secure a great measure of unanimity within itself for its own proposals; though two of the chief companies, Gaumont British and the Associated British, are opposed to them. Briefly the position is this. Under the new Bill the quota system, whereby the renter and the exhibitor are bound to sell and show a certain proportion of British films, is retained in its old form. This means that a picture which qualifies under the renter's quota is equally eligible to qualify under the exhibitor's. This has led to serious abuses, because the American renters have bought and sold British films as cheaply as possible and, having their own big attraction with which to bargain, have undersold the British producer, who has no such leverage. To remedy this state of affairs the industry now wants to abolish the inter-dependence of the one quota on the other, so that a film should not automatically qualify for both quotas. By forcing the American renter to exhibit his British goods in competition with the British producer it is hoped that there will be an all-round improvement in the standard, and an end of what is known as the "quota-quickie" will be made.

IN THE CITY once more there is depression, but nothing approaching what is called a slump. But the hopes encouraged by reviving trade and trade returns have not been realised. The main cause of this reaction seems to be again of American origin, and it seems that President Roosevelt's message to Congress has been taken too seriously. British Government securities have entirely escaped the general fall, and a break in the clouds may even be seen in the fall of prices on the Metal Exchange. Can this be due to a receding belief in the imminence of war?

Leading Articles

LORD HALIFAX IN BERLIN

VISCOUNT HALIFAX, Lord President of the Council, has gone to Berlin for a visit to the Hunting Exhibition and it is understood that he will discuss matters of international importance with General Göring and other German leaders. On the face of it, it is unfortunate that this attempt to define and control the circumstances which make European peace so unstable should have been prefaced by an article in a London evening paper, which called forth a vigorous protest from the organs of the Nazi party. It was suggested that Hitler might grant a ten years' truce in the matter of colonial claims in return for a free hand in Central Europe. The suggestion was described by certain German newspapers as "an outrageous calumny" and a very broad hint was given that Lord Halifax's visit had better be postponed. Why so much fuss about an irresponsible newspaper article and why are the British Government organs exerting themselves so violently to prove that the offending article was just a journalistic stunt?

One would like to have seen in the British Press an equally vigorous denunciation of the terms hinted at for an Anglo-German agreement. The Nazis are furious that there should be any bargaining about the colonies which are supposed to be their immediate objective. This country ought to look with the deepest suspicion on any so-called political settlement which is supposed to guarantee us a ten years' peace in Western Europe. There is one small point in which the so-called democratic states score over the totalitarian. Their rulers can boast a temporal advantage, since their agreements are not bounded by the life of a single man; democracies change their muddled minds often enough, but they are spared the volcanic revolutions which follow a dictator's death, and their friends and allies have at least a chance of being remembered in the new regime.

An Englishman is bound to ask why a section of the German Press was so horrified at a completely unofficial article. It is true that in Germany no article of any kind can be published without the imprimatur of the Government. The Holy Inquisition never imposed a more merciless censorship. Much can be said for this rule, but it has to face a serious difficulty; when every journalist and every newspaper turns out the same kind of views and news, some novel system must be invented to make the public read the same tripe eternally re-cooked. That system has not yet been discovered and consequently people in the totalitarian state do not read their newspapers, even if for the sake of conformity and a good name they subscribe to them. Perhaps that is why the Fascist and Communist States expend so much energy on wireless propaganda, but even so, it is not easy to control the listener's manipulation of the button. No doubt the subjects of a benevolent dictatorship are spared a quantity of half-witted lucubrations on which some newspapers spend millions a year and boast about it.

They escape the degradation of their intelligence and vocabulary, but their critical sense suffers and they get hot under the collar when in some foreign land immune from censorship an article appears that their censor would never have passed. A Government which can control its Press is bound to go off the deep end from time to time, when the gay uncontrolled newspaperman who knows that he is no more than the butterfly of literature lets himself go and skips merrily from the bitter flowers of truth to the sweeter blossoms of what might be.

Yet even so, it is wise to remember one thing. All the funny irresponsible articles which are printed in such countries as ours, where anyone can write what he likes as long as he does not injure his neighbour, are a dead letter in the lands of government-directed opinion, unless the authorities for their own purpose allow them to be known by their subjects. The average citizen may find it hard to realise that a foreigner armed with no more than imagination and a fountain pen can write just what he pleases. The officials who control his life labour under no such delusion. They know that any British newspaper can within the limits of the law print exactly what it pleases. Why then did they suddenly become so sensitive to this article about Lord Halifax's visit? Most people can face any insult except the truth. Can it be that this unimportant article gave away the truth, that Germany was really hoping to do a little bargain?

Perish the thought! In dealing with Germany we must always remember the principles laid down by Hitler. An enemy's suspicions must always be lulled by professions of peace. Colonies are of no importance, merely a hindrance, and the future of Germany lies in Europe. Above all, it is necessary to understand the mentality of the future enemy. Ten years' peace! Cannot one hear the cries of the Opposition cursing all further re-armament as a provocation. They would not pause to inquire as to the basis on which that promise was built. Peace in our time—then cut down our defence even lower than in those terrible days when the British Empire was a wraith in the councils of Europe. The German Press has raised its voice against any bargaining about peace and colonies. On our side let us shout them down in the same sense. We are not concerned with bargains, but with protecting ourselves and maintaining the peace of the world.

History repeats itself. Joseph Chamberlain tried hard to find some basis of understanding with Germany, and of his efforts a shadow remains, the Rhodes Scholarships for Germans. Lord Haldane strove desperately to bring about understanding between this country and his spiritual home, but his achievement was summed up by the old Contemptibles whose rifles were so sure that Lord Haldane's spiritual companions spoke of machine guns. To-day there is something more to go on, since Germany has abandoned the idea of challenging the British sea power which is our life. One hopes that our former Viceroy in India will go to Berlin without sentimental pre-occupations, intent to prove that Britain and the Empire are as

disinclined to bargain as Germany. It might be well to borrow a leaf from the book of the other side: those who are not with us are against us, and if they are against us they had better look out for squalls.

UNIQUE—UNIQUER— UNIQUEST

PARIS has seen so many unique events this year—that inconceivable, sprawling Exhibition with its myriad swarm of tired gapers like a Coronation crowd multiplied to the nth, its nightly crash of firework bombs, not to speak of real ones hard by the Arc de Triomphe, the British Pavilion like a crate delivered from Sir Gordon Lowe's sports' shop; then the crash of the franc; the crash of M. Léon Blum leaping from Presidency to Vice-Presidency of the Council of Ministers—that quiet England may be pardoned for knowing nothing of perhaps the unique among them. "I guarantee," as the Caledonian market salesman said, "that you won't find a uniquer piece in the market—not at the price."

The fact is that a play is on in Paris to see which you have to book four or five days in advance. Not much to boast of? Not in London, where any big success demands a week's planning to buy a seat. But in Paris, unprecedented. There, you drop in at the eleventh hour and are sure of your fun, save maybe at a popular revue on Sunday afternoon or evening. Yet now, at the Bouffes Parisiens, when I went on a Friday morning in October before the box office was open, I found sixty people waiting. It took me forty minutes to squeeze up to the *guichet*. Then I could only get two seats for the following Wednesday. They were the last in the house.

And this had been going on for months, and is still. At moments the days of advance booking have been weeks. Extra chairs are crowded in at the back of the stalls. Cushions on the floor between the horrid *strapontins* are sold for the price of seats. Nothing like it has ever been seen.

The protagonists of this miraculous draught of playgoers are favourites in London, too, where they have won our plaudits separately and together. Mlle. Yvonne Printemps and M. Pierre Fresnay are themselves unique. And in *Les Trois Valses* they have a vehicle such as artists must dream of but seldom find. MM. Léopold Marchant and Willemetz, two practised craftsmen, its authors, have taken the well-worn theme of three generations contrasted one with another. But, by a delightful twist in their treatment, the three generations are here represented, one in each act, by a couple of precisely the same age and of equivalent social standing. In 1860 the young Marquis de Chevancey, captain in the Imperial dragoons, would marry the star of the ballet. Horror of his family. Nothing can affect his decision. But she, learning that marriage with her will entail his leaving the army which he adores with almost equal ardour, breaks from him without farewell, despair in her heart, for London, Covent Garden,

and fame as *the* dancer of her age, fainting as she signs the contract.

Act II, anno 1900, shows us the Marquis, rich dandy son of him in the first, falling madly in love with the star of operette—none other than the daughter of that same dancer. She agrees to throw over career, contract, public; they will leave that very evening—in his automobile! Think what an event in 1900, an elopement by automobile!—Perhaps they'll even get as far as Fontainebleau by midnight. Heavens, what speed. But stay, while de Chevancey goes to prepare this fantastic journey, into the star's dressing room burst all the company, managers, fireman and whatnot. "You can't leave! You must play!" "I shall, I won't!" "Edward has bought a box!" "What Edward?" "The only Edward, parbleu! Le Prince de Galles! Just got to Paris! Come straight to see you!" *Métier oblige. La politesse* too. The star can't insult Edward. Leaving a word for her lover, she dashes on to the stage. Then he returns, learns, writes a curt, sarcastic line. As her mother his father, so he chucks her. With his anything but *doux billet* in her glove, she finishes her final song to Edward and faints as the curtain falls.

A marvel of cleverness awaits you in Act III. Time, 1937. Scene, the studios at Joinville. She, daughter of the second, granddaughter of the first star, is a cinema star and about to film her famous grandmother's broken romance, *Mais flûte et zut*. The male star, engaged to play the Marquis of Act I, defaults. None other's available. Then enter, timidly, the young Marquis of to-day, son and grandson of those before, come to protest against his grandfather's private life being filmed at all. The family is ruined; he is a struggling insurance agent. The producer has a brainwave. Let's engage the real Marquis to play the grandfather. He indignantly refuses, then sees her and like father and grandfather, on the instant falls for her. But he imagines that she detests him. Only as they finally repeat for the camera the love scene we have witnessed in Act I, their lines change of themselves. Instead of a rehearsed scene we are thrilled to realise that he and she are talking themselves, not as characters. The rupture turns into an embrace. What's the producer care? His film has a new end, that's all.

It is easy to imagine the opportunity given by her triple part, with music from Johann Strauss the elder and the younger, and from Oscar Straus, to such an artist as Mlle. Yvonne Printemps. She takes it with both hands—and both feet, for she dances like a Taglioni, as well as singing like her only self and shedding tears as no other actress can since Ellen Terry. But by far the harder task is that of M. Pierre Fresnay. Without wigs or hats or furbelows, his profound psychological art portrays three totally distinct men and, yet more, three quite different epochs. His acting not only is an enchantment, but achieves a historical reproduction of the first order. Together they are irresistible. Small wonder that *Les Trois Valses* is the unique event in Paris.

J.P.

THE STRAITS

OF late there has been much discussion both in the Press and in Parliament concerning Gibraltar and the Spanish Nationalist fortifications on the Andalusian and Spanish Moroccan coasts. Many of the criticisms levelled at the Nationalists are decidedly ill-informed, so that I feel an account of the actual situation by one who recently examined it on the spot will prove of interest.

On the point opposite Gibraltar there is a battery of twelve inch guns. These are trained out to sea with the intention of defending Algeciras, which has in the past been severely bombarded, against attack by enemy warships. The position is completely dominated by the Rock—the armament of the fortress has been much strengthened of late as one can see from the deck of any ship in the harbour—and there is no doubt that the British gunners, if they ever wished to do so, could blow the Spanish battery into the sea.

At Tarifa there is another battery—the guns also being trained out to sea—which was placed in position after that picturesque town, so familiar to all those who pass through the Straits, had been attacked by Spanish Government warships.

As far as Spanish Morocco is concerned, Ceuta is of course fortified, but the majority of the guns were in position before the civil war started and are in some cases, of British make. A few new and powerful batteries have been added; a matter which occasions no surprise to those who, like myself, have seen the havoc caused by the shells of the red warship "Jaime Primero." Villa Sanjurjo, the port in the Rif, is not, as far as I could see, fortified at all, but the fortress of Melilla is, of course, defended by batteries and a number of electrically controlled anti-aircraft guns. I was at the time of my visit special correspondent of the *Morning Post* and the Nationalist authorities gave me every facility to go wherever I wanted.

It must be remembered, when considering this question of fortifications that Ceuta, Melilla and the two island presidios of Peñon de la Gomera and Alhucemas are not part of the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco, but have belonged to Spain for centuries, and are administered as part of Spain. This was recognised in the 1904 treaty between France and England, the 1904 treaty between France and Spain, and also in the secret convention between France and Spain, for although Spain bound herself not to erect fortifications on the Spanish Moroccan coasts, special exceptions were made of Ceuta, Melilla, Peñon de la Gomera and Alhucemas. Then again in 1912, after France had concluded her treaty of protection with the Shereefian Empire, a subsidiary treaty was negotiated with Spain whereby the Spanish Moroccan zone was officially recognised and delimited, the clause concerning fortifications still holding good. It is interesting to note that no direct treaty or agreement was made between

Spain and the Shereefian Empire, France merely sub-letting, so to speak, part of her protectorate to Spain. Thus, though administered as a protectorate, Spanish Morocco is legally a zone of influence.

Remembering this it is difficult to see how any objection can be taken to the fortifications of Melilla and Ceuta, especially as they do not compare in strength with those of Gibraltar. It also seems very unlikely that the Spanish Nationalists would ever attempt to dispute the command of the Straits and indeed, as Colonel Don Juan Beigbeder, the Spanish High Commissioner, told me, they are anxious to maintain friendly relations with England.

As for Gibraltar itself, it would seem that the fortress is still impregnable and could in an emergency blow everything and everybody sky high. It is true the dockyard is on the wrong side—exposed to gunfire from Spanish territory—but if this is so very serious it would surely be infinitely cheaper to build on the other side of the Rock, rather than to remove bag and baggage elsewhere. Those who talk so lightheartedly about exchanging Gibraltar for Ceuta or Tangier, appear completely to ignore the question of expense. In the case of Tangier, for instance, the harbour is notably bad—as those who have been marooned there during a Levanter know to their cost—it is entirely unfortified and the diplomatic complications attendant upon any attempt at exchange make one tremble.

Very similar arguments apply to Ceuta, for the money necessary to alter the harbour and erect fortifications comparable in strength with those of Gibraltar would horrify even the British taxpayer accustomed as he is to bearing an almost overwhelming burden.

The Nationalist authorities in Andalusia have behaved to the British garrison of the Rock with the courtesy one would expect from Spanish gentlemen, permitting them to exercise their horses, hunt and play polo in Spanish territory. This happy relationship will surely be maintained in the event of General Franco's complete and final triumph.

F. H. MELLOR.

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MACMILLAN

Books of The Day

BATTLING WITH EVEREST

CAN Everest, the world's highest peak, be ever conquered by man on foot? It has been conquered of course already by means of the aeroplane, but hitherto all the expeditions that have struggled to reach the summit by mountaineering skill and endurance have failed. Have the methods so far adopted been sound? If so, what are the prospects for future success? Would a smaller expedition of, say, six, "all potential summit men," be likely to have better chances than a larger one, like the last, double its size? All these questions are answered in Mr. Hugh Rutledge's absorbingly interesting story of the 1936 expedition, "Everest: The Unfinished Adventure" (Hodder & Stoughton illustrated, 25s.).

He points out that four men have already reached a height of about 28,100 feet and that final triumph was denied them by "circumstances which will not necessarily recur." Victory, he thinks, is quite possible if, when the final assault has to be made, the weather is favourable and the men undertaking the last thousand feet of climb are at the top of their form. The one incalculable factor is the weather. "Here the element of luck must come in—without luck I think that Everest cannot be climbed." Whether oxygen will have to be used on this ultimate stage he confesses that he does not know, but he suggests that oxygen should be taken up to the highest camps for use at the climbers' discretion. As regards the contention that a smaller expedition would have better chances of triumphing he says that it is not sound to argue from the success attained by smaller parties on the lesser Himalayan peaks such as Nanda Devi that the same methods and same numbers would prove equally successful on Everest, "where the really serious difficulties only begin at an altitude greater than that of the summit of Nanda Devi." Again, "on the latter mountain the climbers did their own carrying, their Sherpa porters having failed them. I am absolutely convinced that the European members of an Everest party should not—probably they could not—carry loads up to the highest camps." He is quite prepared to admit that if all went well from start to finish a party of six expert "all potential summit men" might conquer Everest. But "things do not always go according to plan on Everest," and a party of this size would not be sufficiently large to allow for casualties through sickness or even minor accidents. He is, moreover, convinced that at least two doctors should accompany an Everest expedition and that there ought to be in it, not only one good linguist, but also a specialist trained in meteorology and wireless transmission. Contact with the outer world is worth maintaining for the sake of valuable meteorological information, and may even be imperatively necessary for other reasons, since "a situation might easily occur in Tibet where it was necessary to invoke the assistance of the Government of India."

Mr. Rutledge has no belief in the theory that the best time to climb Everest would be after the

monsoon—in October or November. "The experience of the last few years," he writes, "has proved that in the Everest region snow above 23,000 feet is not negotiable, at any rate during the monsoon. Is it likely to be better in the cold months? I very much doubt this, for it will not melt and re-freeze and will therefore be more powdery than ever. We cannot expect it to be wind-impacted, for the very reason that October and November are comparatively windless. Again, the nature of the North Face of Everest is such that dry rock is needed for the ascent. Powdery snow on those outward-shelving slabs is an insuperable barrier."

The 1936 expedition, so far as mere height records were concerned, did not accomplish as much as the expeditions of 1922, 1924 and 1933. This was due solely and wholly to the impossible weather conditions it encountered. After rapid progress up to the establishing of Camp IV, bad weather suddenly set in; the North Col had to be abandoned on May 18 and, with the break of a very early monsoon seven days later, the risks for the climbers became exceedingly grave. Finally Shipton and Wyn Harris, in attempting to regain the North Col, became involved in an avalanche from which they escaped by something closely resembling a miracle. "The avalanche was decisive; the climbers had pushed their attempts on the North Col to the very limit, and never again can there be any doubt that the North Col slopes must be left severely alone once the monsoon has really arrived . . . Shipton and Wyn Harris' courageous experiment probably saved the expedition from a major disaster, for had a large party tried to reach the North Col next day the entire slope might well have gone down. The weight of fifty odd laden men strung out along the traverse would have been a very different matter from that of two climbers. The game was now up."

Thus one of the lessons this expedition has to teach is that any attack by the North Col slopes must be made well before the monsoon arrives. Otherwise disaster is almost bound to occur. And in addition to other contributions to the common stock of Everest-climbing experience, the 1936 expedition performed the extremely useful work of investigating the possibilities of an alternative route on the west face of the North Col. Smythe, who, with Wyn Harris, carried out the investigation of the higher parts of this route, is quoted as saying that, while the East Rongbuk glacier route is to be preferred in ordinary circumstances, "in doubtful conditions, *i.e.*, monsoon conditions or the period prior to monsoon precipitation," the west side of the North Col may be safer owing to the fact that windslab is less likely to form. Should a party be trapped on the mountain by the sudden onset of monsoon conditions, this alternative route might well offer "a valuable bolt hole."

A number of technical chapters by members of the expedition—on matters such as weather, health, wireless, physiology, oxygen and the local name of Everest—are added as a supplement to Mr. Rutledge's ably written and fascinating narrative, while at the end of the volume is a special portfolio containing a large collection of magnificent pictures.

AFRICAN MEMORIES

Baroness Blixen was the author (concealed under a pseudonym) of that charming collection of stories, "Seven Gothic Tales," and in her new book, "Out of Africa" (Putnam, 12s. 6d.), she has more stories to tell us, this time of real persons and happenings, out of her experiences of farming life in Kenya. Those experiences were both happy and sad; and they are unfolded to us with the same grace and ease of style that gave distinction to her former book. It is only here and there by a particular turn of phrase that one is reminded that the author is not an Englishwoman but a Dane, so complete a mastery has she of the English language and idiom. She keeps to no chronological order, but groups her memories and pictures of African life under five main headings. When she was forced to sell up her farm and leave Africa she obviously left a good part of her heart behind her. Her best friend, of whom she has painted for us a most attractive portrait, had been killed in an aeroplane accident just before she left, and when the time came for her to go she experienced a fearful wrench in parting from her native staff who had served her with such devotion. She had learnt to get into the heart and mentality of the African, and she has much that is both instructive and amusing to tell us of the differences in outlook of native and European.

DARWIN: FRAGMENTARY MAN

The main facts about Charles Darwin's life and work have long been known. Nonetheless, though Mr. Geoffrey West has no fresh discoveries to disclose regarding the life of the father of the "evolution" theory, the book he has written ("Charles Darwin: The Fragmentary Man," Routledge, illustrated, 15s.) is an admirable example of judiciously critical and appreciative, lucid and entertaining biography. It reveals that the author has acquired "a considerable liking, even an affection for the man Darwin," while being disposed "to take Darwinism very much less for granted" than before. He traces the beginnings of Darwinism to the first contacts between Dr. Erasmus Darwin and Josiah Wedgwood in the middle of the eighteenth century. The friendship between these two men was to bring about the subsequent union between the two families, Charles Darwin's father, Robert, marrying Susannah Wedgwood and Charles himself later on marrying yet another Wedgwood. It was Wedgwood influence that persuaded Robert Darwin to allow his son Charles to accept the post of naturalist in the "Beagle" expedition and thus set Charles forth on a career that was to upset all his father's plans for his entry into the Church. The five years on the "Beagle" represented all the "field work" Darwin ever had, if one excludes his "sporting" interest in "bug-hunting" as a University undergraduate. It was a curiously meagre practical education for a scientist who was to win world-wide repute; yet it sufficed. Another point that Mr. West emphasises is Darwin's slowness as a worker. Here he displayed the true scientist's attitude, never accepting conclusions till he was satisfied that he had thoroughly tested their truth. Thus "The Origin of Species" took

some twenty years before it could be made ready for publication. It might not have appeared even then had not Darwin had some reason to fear that his ideas might be forestalled. And, of course, he had his difficulties with his publisher, who was very dubious about the prospects of a book of this kind and supported his reader's suggestion "that the author should publish instead a full statement of his observations of pigeons accompanied by a quite brief account of his general views and the promise of a forthcoming larger work which would substantiate them for other creatures." "Everybody," remarked the publisher sagely in seconding this advice, "is interested in pigeons"—a truly remarkable judgment regarding the value to be attached to a book that was to have such a profound effect on the thought of the world! Mr. West concludes his book with a consideration of the shortcomings of the Darwin theories. This explains the sub-title of his book—"the fragmentary man," the man who has seen only part of the whole truth.

STORY OF LLOYD'S

Lloyd's is a typical English institution in that, like Topsy, it just grew. It did not spring up ready made and complete under some great organiser's sudden conviction that an institution of the kind it has become was urgently needed. Its development has proceeded gradually in conformity with the demands made on it from within and without in every age through which it has passed. It started in a very small way with the regular meeting of a few business men in a coffee

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house run by an enterprising individual named Edward Lloyd. Little is known about this man, after whom this highly important institution was to be named and whose signature is still one of the prized historical relics of Lloyd's. He is credited with ambitions, but he never apparently succeeded in becoming anything but a constable, a waiter and a coffee house keeper. However, it is to be presumed he provided excellent coffee and he was clever enough to realise that in an age which was lacking in journalistic facilities news was a commodity that would attract and retain custom. Hence he began organising the "Sons of Mercury" out of whose activities—twenty years after his death—was to grow "Lloyd's List." Mr. Ralph Straus in "Lloyd's: an Historical Sketch" (Hutchinson, illustrated, 18s.) gives us a delightful account of this latter development: how the coffee drinkers had come to complain of the falsehoods in the way of news supplied by the "Sons of Mercury" and how the newsmen retorted that "a handsome lie well told makes a good figure in a newspaper." Mr. Straus calls his book a "historical sketch," but it is really something very much more than that. It tells the whole story of the gradual growth of Lloyd's vividly and well, with much picturesque detail and, while avoiding technicalities, also describes clearly the modern working of this institution. To the annual Audit, "the backbone of Lloyd's as it exists to-day," Mr. Straus naturally pays special attention, setting out its chief features with admirable lucidity and leaving us to reflect that here again this most important development—"of all the twentieth-century developments at Lloyd's that which is regarded with most pride"—was brought about more or less casually through one member having found it an excellent way of conducting his own business.

FASCIST ITALY

Miss Beatrice Baskerville, as the Rome correspondent of an English newspaper, has had special opportunities of studying internal conditions in Italy and the trends of Italian policy during recent years, and she presents us with her impressions and conclusions in a book bearing the rather sensational title "What Next O Duce?" (Longmans, illustrated, 10s. 6d.). Her book is divided into three sections: the first shows in detail how in the author's view Mussolini proceeded to carry out his plans for a war of conquest and for founding an Italian empire; the second deals with internal conditions in Fascist Italy; the third is concerned with disclosing Italian ambitions in the Mediterranean. Though Miss Baskerville certainly does not write without bias, there is much in her book that will command both interest and attention. The second section in particular is very helpful towards a thorough understanding of the inner workings of totalitarian rule. As for the first section, Mussolini is featured throughout as a true disciple of the Machiavelli he is supposed so greatly to admire. He wanted the Abyssinian war and he engineered it, beating up enthusiasm for a campaign for which the Italian public and the Italian General Staff in the first instance had no keenness, by

rousing National indignation against Britain and other great Powers who were represented as selfishly wishing to deprive Italy of African territories they coveted for themselves. *Suggestio falsi* and *suppressio veri*, Miss Baskerville suggests, both had their part in Mussolini's war propagandising, and in her opinion had Britain from the first adopted a policy of complete neutrality in the Abyssinian war, she would not have played so effectually into Mussolini's hands and would have also saved the Abyssinian Emperor from foolish expectations of outside support. As regards the actual Abyssinian campaign Miss Baskerville tells us the supply service was by no means as efficient as it ought to have been and that there was a good deal of corruption. Mussolini, through the thoroughness of his Fascist organisation, appears to have the means of moulding his countrymen to his heart's desire, but Miss Baskerville has her doubts whether the ultimate results will be those which are the objectives of this Fascist dragooning. "Will it," she asks, "produce a warlike nation? Or will its very intensity weary the young and turn them into pacifists? Or will it merely make them indifferent to arms and empire?" Those are speculations for the future to answer. For the moment at any rate one must confess there are no signs that the Duce is not carrying the Italian nation in full patriotic fervour along with him.

IN SEARCH OF MAHATMAS

Tibet, having been so long a forbidden land to the would-be explorer, has naturally come to be associated with all kinds of mysteries and mysterious beings. Among other things, there is the hoary legend of Mahatmas invested with supernatural powers of vision to whom none of the secrets of life and death are hidden. The American, Mr. E. G. Shary, in his youth, having a passion for adventure and being also interested in Oriental philosophy, was irresistibly drawn to this land of mystery, and in the war years, 1914 to 1918, he made two attempts to penetrate into it and discover all there was to know about its awe-inspiring Mahatmas ("In Search of Mahatmas," Seeley Service, illustrated, 15s.). His first attempt was a signal failure. After getting some little distance eastward of Leh he was reduced to such straits that he would probably have died of starvation and exposure had he not been rescued in time by some travelling missionaries. Two years later he made a second attempt. Travelling light, with practically nothing but the clothes on his back, and begging food and shelter from nomads, villagers and monasteries, he succeeded in performing a journey, after many trials and hardships, right across Tibet, from Leh to Shigatse via the Manasarowar lakes and down the course of the Tsangpo river. Needless to say, he did not meet any Mahatmas, but, though he was fated to be disappointed in this respect, he had every reason to be proud of a feat in exploration that had only been performed once before (by the Capuchins, Derideri and Freyre, a hundred years earlier) and has never been performed since by any white travellers. The record of his experiences makes an unusually attractive travel book.

NEW NOVELS

Mrs. Mary Borden's new book, "The Black Virgin" (Heinemann), displays all that brilliant richness of style and characterisation that one has learnt to associate with her work. Her Black Virgin is one of the art treasures of a famous country house, and it is the means in the end of averting the financial bankruptcy that threatens its owner and his family. The slice of life Mrs. Borden has chosen for her story is a particular social political set that is conscious of the crumbling of its little world through financial trouble and its emotional excesses. We are introduced to a Christmas party at the country house, and all the members of it, including the children, are made very real to us by deft and subtle touches. Then comes the steadying influence of tragedy, which produces a new mental outlook to family ties.

The Victorians have not always been treated fairly by the latterday novelist, but Miss Noel Streatfeild has managed her contrasts between the older and modern generations with sympathy and understanding. Her Victorian mother, born in 1870, is the heroine of "Caroline England" (Heinemann), and Miss Streatfeild gives us a delightfully convincing study, first of this mother's early life and then of her reactions to the bewildering tendencies of the age she has lived into, so different from the past she has known. The portrait that emerges in the later chapters is of a woman who faces life as it comes with dignity, courage and poise. The charm of the story lies in the freshness and quiet humour of its telling.

"Thirty Million Gas Masks," by Sarah Campion (Peter Davies), may perhaps be best described as an earnest contribution, in the form of a novel, to the problem how to ensure the peace of the world. The moral would appear to be that a policy of pacifism or non-resistance can only become practical when humanity has completely divested itself of the old Adam that so frequently insists on making his presence felt. The story is a fantasy. Its heroine is a confirmed pacifist who believes that the only way to prevent war is to refuse to fight on any pretext whatsoever. She and her friends are wiped out by an air raid. But they come back to re-inhabit their old homes as ghosts, lively enough to continue their old debates and found a new state on pacifist lines. Once more there is an invasion and pacifism is abandoned by all but the heroine, and even she momentarily forgets her principles. And so this spiritual colony is also destroyed, and we are left to contemplate the moral: "Is there no other way out but this, that we must either kill or be killed? As we now are, none." Fantastic though the plot is, Miss Campion succeeds in enveloping her story and its characters in an atmosphere of realism, which, incidentally, is by no means devoid of humour.

Mr. Thomas McGreevy and Mr. John Rodker are to be congratulated on their excellent translations of Parts I and II of M. Henri de Montherlant's tetralogy. These two full-length novels are published under the English title, "Pity for Women" (Routledge, 8s. 6d.). Both have had a tremendous success on the other side of the Channel, Part I being now in its 137th

edition, and their translation into English will doubtless be welcomed by a large circle of readers who have heard something of their "Byronic types."

A first novel of unusual merit is Mr. Edward Hope's "Spanish Omelette" (Chapman & Hall). The story is of a young American who is in temporary charge of an American Consulate at a small Spanish port when the revolution breaks out and finds himself faced with all kinds of harassing problems. It is a romantic and highly entertaining tale.

Lady Tegart knows her Ireland, and she has given us a diverting Irish comedy in her "Castle Bran" (Faber & Faber). The real hero of this story is an irresponsible creature, Tim More, who has a true Hibernian way with him in getting everyone to do what he wants and who covers up his own delinquencies in a manner that disarms all criticism.

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

The Oxford University Press will publish early in the New Year an illustrated history of "Locomotion in Victorian London" by G. A. Sekon.

For November 30 Eyre & Spottiswoode announce Mr. Hector Bolitho's character study of "George VI." Mr. Bolitho has also edited the new collection of "Letters of Queen Victoria," recently discovered in the Brandenburg-Prussian State archives in Berlin. This collection (published under the authority of the Crown) will be coming from Thornton Butterworth early in the New Year.

TO BE or NOT TO BE

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Letters to the Editor

ITALY AND ENGLAND

Sir,—I have just received my *Saturday Review* for November 6 and, having read the leading article—"Mr. Eden's Speech"—I cannot refrain from saying how wholly admirable I find it.

Apart from the fantastic penalties inflicted on the defeated Germans at Versailles, who deserved a good bit of what they got, the treatment of Italy by her allies was a scandal. Italy was one year less in the war and yet, white man for white man, she gave the same proportion of lives to the common cause as did Great Britain or France, and, as far as money is concerned, she gave in proportion to her wealth and resources far more. Added to all this, but for Italy's benevolent neutrality in 1914, there had been no French reserves to fight the battle of the Marne and Paris was lost. France would have been broken and our own small expeditionary force cut off. With the northern coasts of France in German hands we should have been hard put to it to hold on till America chose to come to our aid.

England owes Italy such a debt that cannot easily be repaid; for God's sake let us patch up our senseless quarrel.

CYRIL ROCKE, Lt.-Col.

*Palazzo Sermoneta,
via Monte Savello, Roma.*

AIR-RAID PRECAUTIONS

Sir,—Air-raid precautions are already in force in practically every country in Europe, and it is a sad reflection on British commonsense that they should have hitherto been denied to all our many large and small towns. The Government has put the blame for this lack of necessary preparation on the obstinate refusal of local authority to bear any part of the expense, and the latter in turn has not been slow to transfer the blame to the shoulders of a parsimonious Government. It has been a matter of prolonged and heated argument over the question how the costs of these precautions were to be borne. One is glad that at long last the Government has decided to abandon useless negotiations and proceed to action.

Its Bill is to be its last word on the subject, and one may hope that after the Bill has been passed local authorities will forget their grievances and energetically co-operate in providing the people of the United Kingdom with the precautions that are so urgently needed against possible sudden attack from the air. After all, however the Councils and their ratepayers may dislike the prospect of any addition to the rates, there is much to be said for the Government argument that local authority would have no motive for efficiency and economy if they did not have to find some of the money that has to be spent.

Wandsworth.

J. L. S. HEATH.

OLD HORSES

Sir,—Will you be good enough to grant me space to plead the cause of the horses in England that have seen their best days? Employers of horses all over the country are constantly faced with the problem of what to do with their animals when their sphere of usefulness is waning, or if, for some other cause, they have to be replaced or their services dispensed with. To everyone so situated may I beg a merciful end to their horse or horses—and to have them humanely destroyed on their own premises.

Far too many people sell their old horses in local or open markets with no knowledge or care for their eventual destiny, consigning these unfortunate humble servants to ever increasing hardships as their disabilities reduce their financial worth. Often changing owners and sinking lower and lower in the scale of values, who can predict what their uncared for, tragic fate may eventually be?

So do I beg every hunting man and woman, all polo players, farmers, horse dealers, riding school proprietors, public and private companies, tradesmen, and public services to ensure a humane end to their old and unsound horses—for the sake of all the pleasure or of the faithful servitude they have rendered you, grant them the kindly death that, could they but speak, they would beg of you themselves.

MRS. GEOFFREY BROOKE.

N.B.—It may not be generally realised that good prices can be obtained from local knackers for carcases.

THE NATIONAL Review

Incorporating the English Review

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November, 1937

Episodes of the Month

A Look at France ... By THE VISCOUNTESS MILNER

China ... By J. O. P. BLAND

Democracy and Mr. Roosevelt ... By P. S. DYER-SMITH

Lessons of the Spanish War ... By CAPT. LIDDELL HART

Poem: Le Spectre de la Rose ... By STEPHEN FOX

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Round the Empire

COMMUNISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

DR. MALAN and his "purified Nationalist" following, in recent platform utterances, have been contending that Communist propaganda has been assuming dangerous proportions latterly among the South African natives. They have also linked up their anti-Communist arguments with demands for a drastic settlement of the Jewish question. During a discussion on Jewish immigration at the Free State Nationalist Party Congress it was urged by many speakers that this immigration should be completely stopped, since "the Jews were the feeders of Communism in the Union and there were far too many Jews in the Free State and the Union generally." At this Congress a motion was unanimously adopted asking for the prohibition of the preaching of the doctrine of equality "which was the child of Liberalism and the pet of Communism"; for the eradication, root and branch, of all that Communism had established in South Africa; for the tightening up of the immigration laws, and for making the propagation of Communism a criminal offence.

General Smuts, in referring to these demands and statements by Malanite politicians, in a speech at Aliwal North, said that years ago Communism had been a real danger in South Africa, but it now seemed that in view of internal troubles in Russia there was a falling off in the propaganda carried on in South Africa. Communism in fact was no longer the danger it was years ago. But Communism was proving a useful opposition cry and was being exploited for political propaganda purposes against the Government. It was being said that Communism was poisoning the native population and that the Government was not doing its duty. "Take it from me," said General Smuts, "that we are alive to the gravity such a question could assume. You can accept it from me that it is not such a serious question as it was years ago, and that we are doing what requires to be done."

As the elections approached, more, General Smuts anticipated, would be heard about Communism. It was "a gogga" only used for party purposes and not because there was any actual danger in it. This argument of Communism was used against the Jews, and there was observable in the Nationalist Party a movement to bring about a new segregation in South Africa. It was a painful thing for him to see in the Press a declaration by Dr. Malan that he had been in correspondence with the Greyshirts. It showed there was a danger that the Nationalist Party might use, or allow itself to be used by the Greyshirts to bring about a new division among the people. "I earnestly warn you against this drawing of a line between the European sections. It will be an evil day if Dutch-speaking Afrikaners, mindful of their own experiences in the past, allow themselves to be used to create another class to segregate and to

treat another European class in an unfair way. Not only is it unchristian, but I say that in view of our history in this country, it will be a most dangerous thing." The progress made in past years would be sacrificed. The people would be divided and time and strength would be wasted on idle and useless questions. Could, he asked, a Party which was prepared to act so lightly on some of the greatest and most important questions be regarded as a responsible Party?

The Nationalists' "determined settlement of the Jewish question" sounded very much like what was known in Europe as ghettos. South Africa would have no ghettos, and if he understood the sense of fairness and of freedom in the country, as he had seen it in his time, the people of South Africa would never contemplate a solution of that kind as regards the Jews or any other section of the people. The day a Greyshirt policy became the policy of South Africa, South Africa would be a very different country from the country built up in the present generation.

• THIS CANBERRA FREEDOM •

Two and a half years ago a Standing Orders Committee was appointed to recast the rules by which the Commonwealth House of Representatives is governed. The *Sydney Bulletin* publishes an amusing, if rather caustic, article under the above heading regarding the new rules suggested by this Committee. The article points out that while previously it was forbidden to speak "disrespectfully" of only the Governor-General it is now recommended that this veto be extended to cover State Governors, Deputy Governors, either House of the Commonwealth Legislature or any member thereof, and any House of a State Parliament and it is laid down that "all imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on members shall be considered highly disorderly." The article goes on to say: "Private citizens have not even an inalienable right to attend Parliament and see that it does its job. The new Standing Orders maintain the anachronism that any back-bench member may get the galleries cleared by informing the Speaker that he "spies strangers," and having them kicked out by resolution. The Speaker can order them out on his own authority. If a mere member of the public reflects on an M.P.'s motives, it becomes a matter of "privilege." The member affected has the option of having all business suspended, even if there is a mobilisation in progress, so that his honour may be satisfied. The House may haul the critic from the ends of Australia and dump him into the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, or even into a common gaol, and that without the semblance of a fair trial as understood by drumhead courts-martial. It enjoys the magnificent advantage of being plaintiff, prosecutor and Judge all in one."

"Members who infringe the Standing Orders may, of course, be punished under the new rules, but not punished like the common heru. The lightning strikes them like a caress. Under Section 298 it is only after a member has "persistently and wilfully" obstructed business,

disregarded the authority of the Chair or refused to conform to Standing Orders that he can be dealt with, though he may be carpented for "using objectionable words which he refuses to withdraw" or for disorderly conduct. Punishment? For a first offence, "suspension for the remainder of that day's sitting; on the second occasion during the same session, for one week." This does not mean that he ceases to enjoy all the other privileges of membership. He may luxuriate over a novel in the Parliamentary library, eat and drink in Parliament House, entertain there, use his gold pass to take a holiday at the seaside, ride free on Sydney trams, even though his contempt may have been in speaking "offensively" of the N.S. Wales Parliament in connection with transport legislation, and write to his friends in the comfortable Parliamentary lounges provided in every State capital—write on free Government paper and use free Government stamps. And there is no loss of salary. It is only when he has "persistently and wilfully" offended a third time in one session and undergone two previous suspensions that he can be sent down for as much as a month. He then may not enter Parliament House, but the pay goes on.

"There are, of course, occasions when a member may be arrested for disobeying the House; but this can be done only after he has been asked for an explanation. A stranger in contempt—for, say, failing to leave the gallery when ordered—is in a very different position. He may be arrested on the Speaker's order. He then shares with arrested members of Parliament the privilege of paying the Sergeant-at-Arms a guinea a day for keeping him in custody. It does not matter if he is found not guilty of the offence for which he is charged—he still pays. But again he is worse off than a member. Only a special Act can deprive an incarcerated member of his £2 6s. 6d. a day. As he pays £1 1s. a day for board he can, while in durance, make a neat profit of £1 5s. 6d. a day."

RHODESIAN TUNGSTEN

Re-armament and the conditions of an unrestful world have sent the prices of tungsten ores to the skies, and Southern Rhodesian miners, who once looked on this metal as a nuisance, at best worth little more than the cost of separation, now find it more profitable than gold or platinum. Most sales appear to be private, but recent transactions indicate a fierce demand. Tungsten ores are represented in the Colony by scheelite (calcium tungstate) and wolframite (tungstate of iron and manganese). A consignment from Rhodesia recently fetched 115s. a unit, and scheelite concentrates £369 a ton. The secret of the extraordinary demand for tungsten is that it is used, amongst other purposes, in the manufacture of high-speed tool steel. A lathe, for instance, can greatly increase its output per hour if tungsten steel is used. Tungsten ores are found in many forms and in many parts of Southern Rhodesia and are being mined for themselves alone as well as in the form of a by-product of other metals. Prospecting for new finds is also being vigorously and successfully pursued.

CEYLON BUYS BACTERIA SOIL

Ceylon is buying bacteria-infected soil from China, Japan and the United States for the cultivation of the soya bean. The soya bean is rich in all the ingredients entering into the composition of meat, bread, butter and milk. Industrially, the oil of the bean is used for enamels, varnishes, paint, linoleum, printing ink and a hundred and one products, including explosives. Previous attempts to grow the bean in Ceylon have not been very successful—due to the absence of a certain type of bacteria in the soil. In order to impregnate her own soil with this bacteria Ceylon has imported soya bean soil from China, Japan and the United States. The annual world production of the soya bean totals 11,000,000 tons. China is the largest producer with 5,600,000 tons yearly, Manchukuo next with 3,350,000 tons, United States 1,070,000 tons, and Japan and Korea 770,000 tons.

CANADIAN EXPORTS

Newsprint has displaced wheat as Canada's leading export—a clear indication, if ever there was one, that the Dominion does not live by bread alone. The fact is revealed by the trade returns for the six months ending September 30, which give the wheat exports at just under £12,000,000 and the newsprint at nearly £13,000,000—reversing the first and second places in the export list of a year ago. The returns as a whole make the most encouraging reading. Export figures generally are soaring—the six months' figures run to over £113,400,000 as compared with £97,300,000 for the same period last year—and there is every indication that when the financial year is over they will have exceeded the £200,000,000. Small wonder that the Canadian Government is showing a substantial surplus.

ESKIMOS' HEALTH

Canada's Eskimo population is in good health, and information, including vital statistics, gathered during the 1937 Eastern Arctic Patrol, indicates a decided increase in their numbers. One of the chief functions of the patrol's annual tour made under the direction of the Government is to meet the Eskimos at the various ports of call, and the custom of the natives to gather at these ports to meet the ship presents a good opportunity to make a general "check up" on their health. A careful study of the natives was made by the medical officer of this year's expedition, who reports the Eskimos to be particularly free from disease. Although a healthy and organically sound race, the Eskimos are seriously susceptible to ailments which ordinarily cause white people only minor discomfort. Before the coming of the white man the Eskimos knew nothing of such common ills as colds, influenza and other kindred ailments, and there had been no need for their bodies to build up a resistance to the attack of these diseases. Consequently the arrival of the first whaling and trading vessels each season was followed by widespread outbreaks among the natives, often with disastrous effects. To-day the medical services in the Far North take particular care upon the arrival of vessels to check the spread of these diseases.

Modern hygiene has been a contributing factor to the physical well-being of the natives, and by instructions as to proper diets the doctors have reduced considerably the number of deaths due to dietary causes. A most striking success has been made in the correction of methods of feeding infants and older children, with the result that happy-faced vigorous children now form a considerable portion of the population. Medical care for the native inhabitants of the Far North is provided by doctors, registered nurses and hospitals, and for thousands of miles along the Arctic coast of the Dominion, in fair weather and in foul, medical officers in the service of the Government bring their healing art to the Eskimo citizens. Indians, half-breeds and indigent whites are also given medical aid. Winter and summer patrols of hundreds of miles are not unusual, and nearly every mode of transportation known to the North country, such as aeroplane, steamboat, motor boat, canoe and dog-sled has been used to extend this service.

CANADA'S METALS

Canada's nickel and copper producers set up new output records in 1936. The last month of that year also saw new monthly peaks for the production of both metals. Large increases were likewise registered in exports of both metals. Canada is the world's largest source of nickel, providing 80 per cent. or more of the world output. In the production of copper Canada stands third, being exceeded only

by the United States and Chile. The greater part of the Canadian production of both nickel and copper finds its market abroad. The production of nickel in Canada last year totalled 169,378,000 pounds. The highest previous yearly record was 138,516,000 pounds in 1935. In 1929 the total production of this metal in the Dominion was only 110,275,000 pounds. The December output of nickel in Canada amounted to 18,011,000 pounds and the previous monthly record was 16,151,000 pounds in February of last year. The peak monthly output in 1929 was 14,913,000 pounds in November.

Production of copper in Canada in 1936, according to reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, totalled 421,076,000 pounds. The previous peak was set up in 1935 at 418,997,000 pounds.

REDSKINS TO BROADCAST

Much water has flowed under innumerable bridges since the Red Indian of Canada was at all of the type imagined by schoolboys. He is now a law-abiding citizen, contributing in many cases to the general wealth of the community. Now he is to broadcast—surely the final symbol of progress. The Indian Affairs branch of the Department of Mines & Resources has arranged for a series of seven broadcasts by representatives of some of the tribes on successive Saturday evenings.

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and
Never will be
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Best in 1740
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DRY GIN

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ONTARIO MANUFACTURERS

Ontario holds first place among the provinces of Canada in manufacturing production. Rapid industrial development has taken place in recent years in Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba; but over a long period Ontario has been the source of approximately half of the Dominion value of manufactures. In 1935, returns for which have been issued recently, the value of the manufactures produced in Ontario totalled \$1,423,562,000 out of a Dominion aggregate of \$2,807,337,000. The 1935 value in Ontario showed a gain of 13.4 per cent. over the value of \$1,255,326,000 in 1934.

Ontario has also the greatest diversification of manufacturing production of any of the Canadian provinces. Outstanding among the industries in which the province of Ontario is pre-eminent is that of automobile manufacturing, which is carried on practically in this province alone. Moreover, according to computations made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ontario is the source of 96 per cent. of the agricultural implement production of the Dominion; of 88 per cent. for leather tanneries; 83 per cent. for rubber goods including footwear; 63 per cent. for furniture; 68 per cent. for fruit and vegetable preparation; 78 per cent. for electrical apparatus and supplies; 68 per cent. castings and forgings; 65 per cent. primary iron and steel; 53 per cent. for flour and feed mills; and 65 per cent. for hosiery and knitted goods.

TROUT THAT PREFER CRABS

The stocking of the rivers of Southern Rhodesia with sporting fish from other countries is proceeding satisfactorily. Trout are doing excellently in the cool waters of the High Veld, but the fish do not take kindly to the warmer temperatures of the bigger rivers of the low country. On the other hand, Large Mouthed Black Bass (from America) find themselves at home in the large slower flowing and warmer rivers. An interesting experiment with Small Mouthed Black Bass (also American) is now suggested as it is thought that these will fill the gap between the High Veld trout and the Low Veld Big Mouths. The Small Mouthed Bass thrives in a swift flowing river with a sand gravel bottom and is a very sporting fish that rises well to a fly. But it does not attain the size of its Large Mouthed cousin.

Rhodesian trout, by the way, feed largely on crabs—besides frogs, grasshoppers and water insects. The stomachs of 100 recently examined, between $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb., showed that crabs easily head the menu. Their chief enemies are various birds, such as cormorants and kingfishers.

SUBSIDISING AN AIR CLUB

The amateur Aero Club of Ceylon is to be turned into a limited company, which will be subsidised to the tune of £3,000 by the Ceylon Government. The step will, it is considered, stimulate the development of aviation in the Island. There is a sad lack of machines in Ceylon. Lord Wakefield presented one plane to the Club a few months ago, and there are only two other machines owned by members of the Club.

COMPANY MEETING

ELECTRIC & MUSICAL INDUSTRIES

THE sixth ordinary general meeting of Electric and Musical Industries, Limited, was held on Nov. 12 at the Chartered Insurance Institute, 20, Aldermanbury, London, E.C.

Mr. Alfred Clark, the chairman of the company, who presided, said the directors are happy to be able to present a report which shows a credit to the balance of profit and loss account substantially higher than that of the previous year. Sales for the trading year have shown an increase over those of the previous period. The radio receiving set business in Great Britain seems to have been conducted on a more stabilised basis than in other years and, together with an advance in set design, I am glad to say we found a continuing effort on the part of all manufacturers to avoid price cutting. (Applause.) Our own sales of radio sets and accessories during the year contributed the greater part of our total profits and accounted largely for its increase.

During the year not only records, but also radio-gramophones and acoustic gramophones have shown a modest increase, while household appliances were substantially ahead of the previous year. Abroad, both inside and outside the Empire, the sales of all products showed a healthy increase.

Work on the Emitron camera, to which I made reference last year, has proceeded with particular success. Those cameras employed at Alexandra Palace and on the mobile van during the year have been of extreme precision and of a sensitivity sufficient to enable scenes to be picked up with less lighting than that of an ordinary film studio. They have been considered as having set a standard, and we have actually supplied the Emitron with its equipment, which is being installed in the new high-power television transmission station at the Eiffel Tower in Paris. (Applause.)

Certain discoveries by our scientists and engineers have enabled them to achieve a considerable advance on this standard Emitron camera which will be of great importance in television broadcasting. The sensitivity of this new instrument is in the nature of approximately ten times greater than that of our standard Emitron. This means that, with this apparatus, it will be possible to televise scenes in an ordinarily lighted public theatre and out-of-doors in very unfavourable light conditions. It was used for the first time yesterday to televise the Cenotaph ceremony with outstanding success.

Television is being held back, we hope only temporarily, because of a lack of the necessary grant of funds for its exploitation. We hope that the Government will choose the simple expedient of an adequate grant.

It is now generally conceded by impartial observers that in this matter England leads the world. (Applause.) Hayes has become the home and inspiration of television. Engineers from all over the world, including France, Germany and the United States, have visited us that they may learn the newest developments, and it is our earnest desire to retain the leadership which we have achieved. To do so, however, requires that the Government should do their part.

Last year we were carrying on negotiations which, if successful, could be expected to relieve considerably our labour situation. Shortly afterwards public announcement was made of the fact that these negotiations had concluded with the purchase of the whole of the share capital of Rudge-Whitworth, Ltd. Strange as it may seem, there are many points in the manufacture of bicycles which are suitable for our own factories, and as the big season of cycle manufacture differs from that of our other goods it is expected that this addition will help to form a practical balance to our work and enable us to reach more nearly that even monthly factory output to which we aspire. When I add to this the fact that the outlet for bicycle goods in the trade is, in many instances, through dealers who distribute other of our products, you will appreciate the reasons which we had in mind when we made this acquisition.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Your Investments

GOOD CLASS INDUSTRIALS SHOULD PAY

POLITICAL "ifs" and "buts" seem to increase with the passing of the weeks instead of to diminish, and sympathy must be felt for the investor who feels unsafe in anything but British Government stocks, though this outlook is quite illogical. Income of under $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. before deduction of tax is hardly a satisfactory return whatever the state of Europe. Brazil's action in commencing a new political era at home by default on her external debt is an unpleasant reminder of the fact that there are few credit-worthy borrowers among the nations to provide an alternative to investment in home securities. In the meantime, a constant stream of good industrial company reports and increased dividends and the remarkably good trade returns for October provide a pleasant contrast to shocks from abroad.

AUSTRALIA'S CONVERSION

The long-expected Commonwealth Conversion Loan duly made its appearance this week, but the response will not be known until the conversion lists as well as the cash lists are closed. The Loan is in the form of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock, dated 1951-54, and it is to replace £11,409,000 of existing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock maturing next year. The "flat" yield is £3 12s. 2d. per cent. while, allowing for redemption at the final date, the return is £3 15s. per cent. This is by no means an unattractive yield for the Trustee investor, the 3s. per cent. over that on the British War Loan and the definite redemption date offering adequate compensation for the money being placed outside this country, though it is in the Dominions. The price of issue at 97 is an indication of the high standing of the Commonwealth's credit at the moment.

OUTLOOK FOR SHIPPING SHARES

Much has been made of the decline in freights in lowering quotations for shipping shares in recent weeks. Those who argue that freights advanced unreasonably will do well to bear in mind that, taking 1920 as 100, the index last month was just under 40, this comparing with 42.83 in September. The year 1920 was certainly a boom period, but the figures show that freights have considerable scope for a further rise, given the right conditions. The rise in shipbuilding costs and the reluctance of the companies to undertake really large rebuilding programmes until the outlook is more settled, puts a premium on the tonnage available at present, and the increased value of tonnage

certainly strengthens the balance-sheet position of the companies. With overseas trade in October at the highest value since 1930, the shipping outlook can hardly be regarded as gloomy. For capital profits, Clan Line at 6½ appear to be the most attractive in the list, while satisfactory income and appreciation appear likely to arise from purchases of Court Line at 20s., Furness Withy at 23s. 6d. and R.M. Lines at 23s. 9d. Brynmor 2s. units at 5s. 3d. offer a low-priced speculative opportunity, especially having regard to increased activity from the Welsh ports.

STEEL ISSUES AND THE AGREEMENT

Steel shares have been a most uncertain market since the announcement that the leading British interests had agreed to stabilise steel prices at their present level until the end of 1938. Presumably the rise in costs was regarded as an adverse factor, since no corresponding rise was to be made in prices. But the move makes it appear that the industry itself is confident of home demand holding up and turnover is even more important than snatching at higher prices. Recently a new record for pig-iron production in this country has been reached, and there seems every prospect of a further big increase in steel output and that it will be absorbed. Yields on the shares in this section are astonishingly high, such a share as John Brown & Co., who are known to be well supplied with orders, including the new Cunarder to match the "Queen Mary," standing at only 30s. 6d., to give a gross return of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The 6s. 8d. units of Richard Thomas & Co. at 11s. 6d. actually return $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The company has recently maintained its interim dividend rate. Here are chances for the investor with courage! Probably the soundest in the list is the 4s. units of Baldwins Ltd., most conservatively financed, and shortly to be rid entirely of its debenture debt. The company paid 10 per cent. last year, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. can confidently be looked for in the spring. At 8s. 6d. the units would then yield about 6 per cent., a wonderful return considering the class of the security.

E.M.I. EXPANSION

Days of phenomenal profits in the gramophone industry are past, and Electric and Musical Industries are broadening the basis of their business by inclusion of Rudge-Whitworth, whose cycle manufacture will allow the company to solve problems of uneven labour demands. Mr. Alfred Clark, at the meeting last week, complained of the handicap to the television industry of the programmes offered, and it looks as though the company will have to wait awhile before reaping its due reward from this source. But at 18s., giving a yield of over 5 per cent., "Emmies" look a reasonable "lock-up."

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